

## Message Text

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43/46

ACTION SS-15

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R 221329Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TT RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 90

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SUBJECT LINE ADDED)

MEXICO CITY FOR AMBASSADOR FOR DUEMLING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT), BU

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S VISIT - MRS INGERSOLL'S  
SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 197807

1. WHILE FINAL DECISION ON INGERSOLL VISIT IS STILL PENDING,  
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO COMMENT ON REFTEL ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS.

2. MOST OF MRS. INGERSOLL'S  
INTERESTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED  
HERE, AND THE MAIN DANGER IS OVER-SCHEDULING BY BULGARIANS.

A. NURSERY SCHOOL VISIT IS POSSIBLE. FOREIGN MINISTRY  
HAS ALREADY ORGANIZED ONE FOR MRS. HERZ AND EMBASSY WIVES.  
(SEEING THE MOPPETS FROZEN AT ATTENTION IS A SOMEWHAT CHILL-  
ING EXPERIENCE.) WATCHING METHODS OF TEACHING IS UNLIKELY.

B. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL UNLIKELY. BULGARIANS ARE VERY  
RELUCTANT TO ALLOW FOREIGNERS TO SEE HOSPITALS WHICH ARE  
BELOW STANDARD, AS WE BELIEVE SOFIA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO BE.

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C. HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY. SOME OF THESE  
VISITS MAY BE PERFUNCTORY, BUT VISIT TO UNIVERSITY  
MAY BE WORTHWHILE. WE DOUBT HOWEVER THAT WIFE OF  
HIGH OFFICIAL OF A CAPITALIST COUNTRY WOULD BE WELCOMED

INTO A LECTURE HALL WHILE LECTURE IN PROGRESS.

D. INDIGENOUS ARTS AND CRAFTS. THERE IS AN

INTERESTING ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM IN SOFIA. BULGARIAN  
ARTISTS UNION ALSO MAINTAINS A SMALL DISPLAY OF FOLK  
ART. THERE IS ALSO A WEAVING DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS  
SCHOOL WHICH DOES LARGELY MODERNISTIC WORK, SOME OF IT

SURPRISINGLY UNCONVENTIONAL.

3. ON OUR PART WE HAVE A FEW SUGGESTIONS: THE SIGHTS  
OF SOFIA ARE QUICKLY EXHAUSTED, BUT MRS. INGERSOLL MAY

WISH TO ALLOW TIME FOR TWO IN PARTICULAR, ONE OF WHICH  
TAKES A LITTLE EXTRA TIME:

A. BOYANA CHURCH, WITH THIRTEENTH CENTURY FRESCOES,  
PROBABLY THE BEST AND MOST INTERESTING ARTISTIC CREATION

THAT CAN BE SEEN IN BULGARIA, IS JUST OUTSIDE SOFIA (BUT

IS CLOSED DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER).

B. THE ICON MUSEUM IN THE ALEXANDER NEVSKY CATHED-  
RAL. IT ALSO CONTAINS AN EXCELLENT REPRODUCTION OF A  
THRACIAN TOMB WITH SPLENDID FRESCOES.

4. WE ARE

UNABLE TO FORWARD NAMES AND TITLES OF WOMEN

WITH WHOM MRS. INGERSOLL MIGHT COME IN CONTACT, UNTIL WE  
HAVE A GREEN LIGHT TO DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH LOCAL  
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AUTHORITIES. IF VISIT TAKES PLACE, WARM HOSPITALITY  
FOR MRS. INGERSOLL BY OUTSTANDING BULGARIAN LADIES  
-- AND BY OUR OWN LADIES -- IS ASSURED.  
HERZ

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